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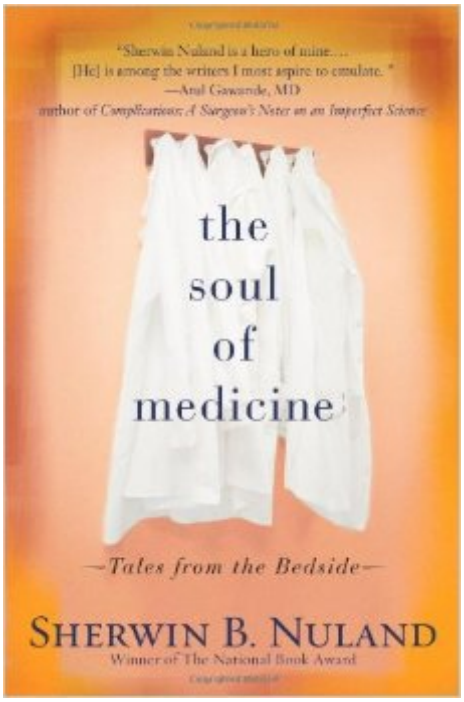
The Soul Of Medicine: Tales From The Bedside



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Synopsis

Like all doctors, Sherwin Nuland collects stories, and over thirty years in the practice of surgery, he has collected a consider number of both his own stories as well as the stories of surgeons he has worked with and admires. The remarkable stories told in this book are filled with the lessons of humanity. They describe that sacrosanct connection between two people we call the doctor-patient relationship, and that othe relationship between the mentor and student, so important to the perpetuation of medical knowledge, judgement, wisdom and character. Doctors have peculiar ways of approaching certain kinds of problems, and many of those ways are captured with with grace and elequence in The Soul of Medicine.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

In "The Soul of Medicine," Dr. Sherwin Nuland has collected reminiscences from a variety of doctors, offering "a sort of Canterbury Tales of medicine." Each chapter is written in the first person by a particular specialist in such fields as neurology, nephrology, pediatrics, and anesthesiology. In some cases, Nuland follows up with a commentary of his own. Some of the stories are tragic and others comical, but all are thought-provoking. Certain facts have been altered to disguise the identity of the people involved. However, the author assures us that the cases and medical details are accurate.This is fascinating overview of the significant changes that have revolutionized the practice of medicine in the last half century. With MRIs, PET and CAT scans, and other advanced tools at their disposal, physicians are better equipped to make diagnoses that in the past might have eluded

them. Of course, conscientious practitioners still take careful medical histories and conduct thorough physical examinations. In addition, they try to keep in mind the crucial role of communication and mutual respect between healer and patient. The anecdotes in this book demonstrate that, although most doctors are hard-working and dedicated people who take their awesome responsibilities seriously, they are also flawed human beings who, at times, make costly mistakes. The best among them, on the other hand, heroically fight to restore their patients to good health. Nuland adds that, in the last three decades or so, an ever increasing number of women have been entering medical school. We no longer hear that it is futile to educate female physicians who will inevitably drop out to have a family.

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